Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, ID

SUBJECT: PAC-INDO LNG CONFERENCE

REF: JAKARTA 1189

1) SUMMARY. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ECONOMIC REGULATORY AGENCY (DOE/ERA) HELD MEETING FEBRUARY 22 TO DISCUSS PETITIONS FOR REHEARING ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN THE PAC-INDO LNG DECISION. WHILE FINAL DETERMINATION WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT BE MADE ON THESE REQUESTS UNTIL AN ORDER IS ISSUED BY DOE/ERA, THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF WHAT THE ORDER MAY CONTAIN. DOE/ERA ADMINISTRATOR BARDIN SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSION OF WHAT WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE ESCALATOR CLAUSE COULD BEST BE ADDRESSED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES AND DOE STAFF. DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE. END SUMMARY.

2) DOE/ERA ADMINISTRATOR BARDIN HELD A PUBLIC MEETING FEBRUARY 22 TO DISCUSS PETITIONS FOR REHEARING ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES RAISED IN DOE'S DECISION ON THE PAC-INDO LNG PROJECT. AN ORDER WILL BE ISSUED SHORTLY LISTING THE ISSUES ON WHICH DOE WILL GRANT PETITIONS FOR REHEARING. A COPY OF THE ORDER WILL

BE POUCHED TO THE EMBASSY WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. WHILE BARDIN DID NOT RULE ON ANY OF THE ISSUES AT THE MEETING, HE DID GIVE AN INDICATION OF WHAT THE ORDER MAY CONTAIN ON SOME OF THE ISSUES.

- 3) BARDIN INDICATED THAT PAC-INDO'S ,ETITION FOR REHEARING ON THE ESCALATOR WAS REASONABLE GIVEN THE APPLICANT'S NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PERTAMINA. BARDIN SUGGESTED THAT THE APPLICANT PROVIDE HIM WITH A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE PRICE ESCALATOR AND THE CURRENCY ADJUSTER. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE PARTIES INDICATE AN APPROPRIATE DATE FOR A REPORT TO HIM.
- 4) WHEN ASKED FOR SOME CLARIFICATION ON WHAT TYPES OF PRICE ESCALATOR PROVISIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, BARDIN INDICATED THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD BEST BE DISCUSSED AT A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTIES, DOE STAFF, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT DOE WOULD PROBABLY DEVELOP PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR A CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF THE ERA ORDER ON THE CASE AND A REQUEST FROM THE PARTIES TO SCHEDULE A MEETING.

- 5) BARDIN DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:
- -- HE IS NOT INCLINED TO CHANGE HIS VIEW WITH REGARD TO THE PRICING PORTION OF THE DECISION. WHILE HE FAVORS INCREMENTAL PRICING, THE CALIFORNIA INVERTED-BLOCK-RATE STRUCTURE ACCOMPLISHES THE DESIRED ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES AND IS THEREFORE A REASONABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR INCREMENTAL PRICING.
- -- BARDIN WOULD LIKE PAC-INDO TO DO AN ANALYSIS OF THE SUGGESTION BY THE CITY OF OXNARD FOR UNDER;ROUND TANKS AND UNDERSEA FACILITIES.
- -- THE QUESTION OF THE TERMINAL SITE IS STILL OPEN. OXNARD REMAINS THE PREFERRED SITE WHILE POINT

CONCEPTION AND OTHER POSSIBLE SITES ARE BEING STUDIED. BARDIN STATED HE WANTS A FLEXIBLE PROCESS WHICH COULD DEAL WITH MAKING A DECISION ON EITHER SITE OR EVEN PERHAPS A THIRD SITE IF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION MAKES SUCH A RECOMMENDATION.

-- THE PROBLEM OF AN APPROPRIATE COST-PASS-THROUGH FORMULA ON SHIP CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES CAN ALSO BE DISCUSSED IN CONFERENCE WITH STAFF. BARDIN DID NOT

WANT TO APPROVE ANY FORMULA THAT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY PASS THROUGH ANY AND ALL CONSTRUCTION COST OVERRUNS. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO A FORMULA WHICH FLOWED THROUGH INCREASES IN MARINE OPERATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.

6) COMMENT. THE CONFERENCE SUGGESTED ON THE ESCALATOR CLAUSE SHOULD PROVIDE THE VEHICLE FOR DISCUSSION OF WHAT IS AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSURE INDONESIANS THAT THE INVOLVED DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IS DUE TO THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROJECT AND LARGE NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT MUST BE CONSIDERED. VANCE

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